

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 04388 250902Z

14  
ACTION SS-25

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O R 250504Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8877  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 4388

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, JO, XF  
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING -- ARAB SUMMIT

1. WHEN I SAW KING HUSSEIN AUGUST 24, ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL PREOCCUPATIONS WAS POSSIBILITY OF ARAB SUMMIT IN NEAR FUTURE. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL PROBLEMS RAISED BY ARAB SUMMIT -- LOCATION, ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA. AS FAR AS THE LOCATION WAS CONCERNED, HE SAID JORDAN FAVORED SAUDI ARABIA AS PLACE FOR THE SUMMIT. HE INDICATED THAT ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA WOULD ALSO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS FOR ARABS.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF AGENDA AND WILLINGNESS OF VARIOUS HEADS OF STATE TO APPEAR, HE TICKED OFF MENTALLY BASIC AREA PROBLEMS -- ALGERIA AND MOROCCO, SYRIA AND EGYPT, SYRIA AND IRAQ, THE PLO, EGYPT AND SUDAN AND LIBYA, THE RABAT DECISIONS AND SO FORTH. ALL OF THESE WOULD PROVE INHIBITING FOR ONE OR ANOTHER LEADER.

3. THE KING SAID HE WAS READY TO ATTEND AS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED BY JORDAN YESTERDAY AND THAT ASAD OF COURSE WAS READY TO GO. HE SEEMED UNCERTAIN OF THE EGYPTIAN POSITION.

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4.LATER I DISCUSSED THE SAME ISSUE WITH ABDUL HAMID

SHARAF, THE NEW HEAD OF THE ROYAL COURT. SHARAF LED JORDANIAN DELEGATION AT COLOMBO. SHARAF REPORTED THAT JORDAN AND SYRIA COORDINATED CLOSELY THEIR REACTION TO THE SUMMIT PROPOSAL AT COLOMBO WHERE HE HAD HAD SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH ASAD AND KHADDAM.

5. SHARAF WENT OVER THE SAME LIST OF PROBLEMS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT EGYPT WOULD HAVE REAL DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING LOCATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OUTSIDE OF EGYPT. HE NOTED THAT THE DISCUSSION IS LIKELY, IF NOT CAREFULLY CONTROLLED, TO SWING FROM LEBANON TO SINAI II TO THE RABAT CONFERENCE, ALL OF WHICH WILL RAISE SIGNIFICANT AND CONTENTIOUS BASIC ISSUES FOR LEADING ARAB STATESMEN AND HEADS OF STATE. NEVERTHELESS SHARAF BELIEVES THAT EGYPT HAD ALREADY INDICATED ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE IDEA OF A SUMMIT AND THAT EGYPT COULD NOT RESIST ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE.

6. NEITHER KING NOR SHARAF HAD ANY IDEAS ABOUT TIMING ALTHOUGH GIVEN URGENCY OF THE SITUATION, KING DID NOT DISMISS THE IDEA THAT CONFERENCE MIGHT BE HELD DURING RAMADAN.  
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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